

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208  
E-mail: [office@bnaisholomalbany.org](mailto:office@bnaisholomalbany.org)  
February 2026

Phone: 518-482-5283  
Visit us at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>  
Sh'vat/Adar 5786

*B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation is a Brit Olam Congregation in covenant with the world because we seek the world we want for all, not the world as it is. We embrace our sacred responsibility to care for the Earth and its inhabitants, a Jewish tradition of stewardship and partnership in the ongoing work of Creation.*

## **JOIN US FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION, CELEBRATION AND STUDY**

Zoom links for services are sent out weekly.

Please call the office for information about telephone access to prayer services.

Friday, February 6	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 7	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE PROPHETS (HYBRID)	10:00 AM
Friday, February 13	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 14	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, February 20	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 21	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, February 27	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE (ZOOM)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 28	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	9:30 AM
	<b>TORAH SERVICE</b>	10:30 AM
Friday, March 6	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, March 7	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE PROPHETS (HYBRID)	10:00 AM

Visit <https://reformjudaism.org/learning> for each week's parashah.

*B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, a Reform Jewish synagogue, is a community that fosters individual, family and congregational spirituality by engaging in worship and prayer, promoting learning on all levels, supporting each other's needs, bettering our community and our world, and forging connections with worldwide Jewry.*

*We take pride in being warm, welcoming, informal, progressive, open-minded, diverse, and participatory. We strive to create a vibrant Jewish present, linking our ancient traditions with the promise of the future.*

## ***From Our Rabbi...***

Some people enjoy planning trips. They like researching locations, reading reviews of hotels, setting price alerts for the best plane tickets, and hunting for the best tours in their chosen locale. I am not one of those people. I enjoy the trip, of course, but not coordinating the details. That's part of why my recent trip to Argentina was especially lovely: everything fell into place on its own or through the efforts of others.

Why Argentina? My father has spent the last few years digging into our genealogy and building a family tree. Although he knew we had a cousin or two in Argentina, the connection was a big vague. After a few lucky breaks, he not only found the "missing link" but also several additional relatives we hadn't previously known about or met. Like many of their fellow Jews, our common ancestors had fled Poland – some heading to the US, some moving to France, and others joining the growing Jewish community in Buenos Aires.

The other details came together seamlessly. My parents had booked a cruise leaving from Buenos Aires and the week before it was my week off.

Friends and relatives recommended a hotel. Even our tours were easy to arrange, as we connected with Claudia Hercman, the Argentinian tour guide that Barney Horowitz had brought to B'nai Sholom (via Zoom) to teach a two-part course on the history of the Argentine Jewish community a year ago. Thanks, Barney!

While the family time with our wonderful "new" cousins and summer sunshine (a *huge* bonus!) would have been enough to make the trip worthwhile, the experiential learning was a significant draw as well. We toured the city generally, learning about Argentinian history; visited the Museum of Latin American Art (MALBA); toured the Teatro Colón opera house; and spent time in the famous Recoleta Cemetery. We also visited sites of Jewish importance, including the memorial at the site of the Israeli embassy, destroyed by a terrorist bombing in 1992, as well as the AMIA building (Buenos Aires' version of Jewish Federation) which was bombed in 1994, a subway station filled with art in its honor, a statue of Anne Frank, the Jewish museum, Templo Libertad, Once (a Jewish neighborhood) and many others.



*Inside Templo Libertad*





*Me and some of my family at the first “synagogue” in Argentina*

Although he had no formal rabbinic training, Henry Joseph was named their rabbi; and so a community was born. Today, it has a building and Templo Libertad, its new home, is a Reform synagogue attached to the Jewish museum.

The second site was Comunidad Mishkán. On the last night of our trip, we went to Kabbalat Shabbat services with a few of our cousins at this small Reform congregation. I would call it the B’nai Sholom of Buenos Aires – a small, friendly community where the greeter/security person at the door knew we were coming, the service was lively and musical, complete with handouts of lyrics for songs not in the siddur, and a warm greeting by Rabbi Deigo Elman, who even took the trouble of translating his d’var Torah into English and printing out copies for his foreign visitors.

The trip was incredible from beginning to end (well, *almost* the end, given my flight delays on the way home). I hope to be able to visit my cousins again soon – especially in their summer! – but witnessing and being part of the evolution of Jewish life in Argentina, even for a moment, was an experience that will stay with me for a long time.

*L’shalom,*

Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

But among all of these attractions, two sites stood out to me as bookends. One was a tree. A 200+ year old rubber tree became the first synagogue in Argentina in 1862: Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina (the Israelite Congregation of the Republic of Argentina). When there were only a handful of known/registered Jewish residents in Buenos Aires, one of them – Henry Joseph – found a nice tree in the courtyard of a church to stand under and pray on Yom Kippur. He noticed a second man doing the same thing; they connected and started gathering a minyan the next year.



*Me with Rabbi Diego Elman at Comunidad Mishkán*

## ***From Our President...***

### **Reviewing our B'nai Sholom "Traditions"**

You may have noticed new efforts that have taken root over the last few years like the security precautions used by greeters at services and synagogue events, or the Modim Moments that have become part of our regular worship. B'nai Sholom is ever evolving. As our membership continues to grow and new faces become friends, new ideas lead to activities such as the inclusion of many instruments and voices at Shabbat Shirah. And just as new ventures can become part of the way we do things, institutions previously thought of as part of our fabric may no longer seem important enough to continue. Sometimes it has to do with infrastructure. Do we have enough congregants to sustain an activity? Do we have people willing to take leadership over a particular task? Or are new endeavors more worthy of congregant time and effort?

Onegs are an example of a tradition that is becoming difficult to sustain in the ways we organized them. For as long as I have been a member, congregants have gathered in the social hall following services for coffee and what my late mother-in-law of blessed memory would have called "what to eat." We greeted each other and met visitors over refreshments. It's been part of the foundation of what makes our community. Often, people have baked for onegs, but just as often people have picked up baked goods or nuts and dried fruit. Either way, the table in the back of the social hall has been covered, beverages and cups have been out and food has been waiting when the service concluded. In recent years, fewer people have signed up to provide onegs. It may be that other activities sustain the synagogue more. Or we might be finding new ways to commemorate life events or to enjoy community with each other and no longer need to gather for refreshments after a service. It definitely seems like more data is needed to know whether onegs are important enough to keep in their present form. **We'd like to know whether you think onegs should continue and if so, whether you would be willing to sign up for a service date and bring refreshments.**

For anyone who is new and may not know how onegs come about: People may wish to commemorate a milestone such as a birthday, anniversary or retirement. Or they may wish to honor the yahrzeit or milestone in the life of a loved one who has passed. They sign up for an oneg and bring cookies or fruit, etc. that people can enjoy together in commemoration of the event.

Willing to sign up to provide an oneg? You can click on the link in the online version of this Bulletin. Or you can find the link listed in the Weekly Updates and Reminders. Or you can call the office to leave a message.

But we look forward to seeing you whether it's over brownies or just visiting in the social hall.

L'shalom,

Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

### **Nominating Committee Named for 2026**

In accordance with B'nai Sholom's by-laws, the Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a slate of officers and trustees for election at the Annual Congregational Meeting. This year's committee members are Ellie Davis, Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola, Melissa Putterman Hoffmann, Ann Lowenfels, Abbey Marr, Mark Reeder and Shari Whiting. Please contact a committee member if you would like to suggest or recommend a congregant for a position on the B'nai Sholom Board.

# Improve Your Social (Action) Life!

B'nai Sholom has a reputation in the community as a congregation that believes in social action. Over the years, I have had several fellow congregants tell me how wonderful they think the work of the Social Action/Social Justice Committee is. And indeed it is. The members of the committee work hard to gather information and coordinate with other committees, fellow Jews and the community-at-large to provide opportunities for the congregation. But here is the thing to remember: **social justice and social action is the responsibility of every Jew**, not just members of a single committee. The Social Action/Social Justice Committee does not serve as the *Sin Eater* (of Jewish folklore) relieving the responsibility of others to act justly. The role of the committee is to provide the opportunity for congregants to observe and act upon the many tenets in the Torah regarding justice and acts of lovingkindness.

The Torah and Jewish tradition set forth principles and commandments regarding how Jews should be in the world. Among these are:

***B'Tzelem Elohim***, each human is created in the Divine image;  
***Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof***, to build a society that is just;  
***Lo Taamod al Dam Reiecha***, do not stand by;  
***Tikun Olam***, repair of the world.

The work we undertake is too large for just one committee. We need you to join in, and there are diverse opportunities available with commitments of various lengths.

Do you believe that each human is created in the Divine image?

- Join us in June for the Pride Festival and Parade to show your support for inclusion and equality.

Is it important to you that we build a society that is just?

- We provide information and education so that you can knowledgeably advocate for change.
- We undertake postcard writing campaigns and also join our fellow New York Jews for the Reform Action Center's Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. (You can sign up now for this year's RAC event on Feb. 25.)

Do you want to join in and not stand by?

- Shoppers are needed every month to purchase groceries for either the Albany Street Soldiers distribution program or to stock two to three Free Food Fridges. Committing to one shop a year helps us fulfill the commandment to feed the hungry. Funds and shopping lists are provided.
- We are a "Support Congregation" for Family Promise of the Capital Region, an organization that assists homeless children and their families with a wide range of services. Four separate weeks a year, we partner with Delmar Reformed Church to provide dinner and overnight stays at the church. You can prepare dinner one night a year and share it with the families we serve. Training sessions will be available soon.
- We work with the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York to provide funds and volunteers for the Jewish Coalition for Literacy. You, too, can become a volunteer reading tutor for a child once a week for an hour in the Albany Public Schools. I'm sure Valerie Tabak, Ann Shapiro or Mari Vosburgh can share their experience with this program.

If repair of the world is what motivates you:

- Join our efforts to combat climate change.
- We participate in the annual Riversweep, helping to clean up a section of land along the Hudson River.
- We work for legislative change and also to mitigate the footprint of B'nai Sholom on the environment.

The projects listed are not the only efforts and not your only opportunities. Throughout the year we put out calls for action and service. These calls are for all congregants, not just committee members.

**You don't need to join the Social Action/Social Justice Committee...just join hands and join in. Fulfill the mitzvah of acting justly. Contact Valerie Tabak or me and let one of us know that you want to make a difference.**

-- Becky Marvin

## **RAC-NY Advocacy Day**

For more than six decades, the Reform Action Center (RAC) of Reform Judaism has worked to educate, inspire and mobilize the Reform Jewish Movement to advocate for social justice.

RAC-NY will be mobilizing at the Capitol in Albany on Wednesday, Feb. 25. The priorities this year are IMMIGRATION RIGHTS and CLIMATE CHANGE.

Your voice **needs** to be heard, so please consider participating...numbers matter! The more Reform Jews speak as one, the more effective our voices become. Friends and family members from other Reform congregations are welcome too.

Online training on issues is offered.

**Please see the enclosed flyer to register.**

Or contact Barry Pendergrass at [bpenderg37@gmail.com](mailto:bpenderg37@gmail.com).

## **Save the Date: JDAIM Movie**

February is JDAIM – Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month! In addition to highlighting inclusion of people with disabilities during Shabbat services, we are planning a movie screening in honor of JDAIM the morning of Sunday, February 22. Stay tuned for details!

## **Here for You: The Caring Community**

The Caring Community is here to support you through life's ups or downs — in times of joy as well as times of illness or sorrow. We have had a great response from volunteers eager to cook, drive you to appointments, run errands, participate in a shiva minyan or just visit. So please call on us if there is anything you need for any reason and give our volunteers the opportunity to perform a mitzvah!



## Spotlight on New Members: Debra Burger

***One of a series of articles from the Membership Team to introduce those who have recently joined B'nai Sholom. This month we welcome Debra Burger, who joined B'nai Sholom this past summer.***

Born and bred in Brooklyn, New York, I have lived in rural Albany County for 42 years. My wife Carole and I have lived across the road from a dairy farm for the past 27 years.

I worked for Questar 3 for over 20 years, as a school social worker with special needs students, in addition to working part time as a psychotherapist. Since retiring from Questar, I have continued my private practice. In addition, I am on the board of directors of Old Songs, perform as a folk singer and songwriter and perform in community theater.

My daughter and granddaughter live three hours away and, of course, one of my greatest joys is spending time with them. I was raised in a family that strongly identified as Jewish but was not observant. It was not until about 20 years ago that I got involved with Woodstock Jewish Congregation and found my life deeply enriched by Jewish practice.

Recently, I began trying to find a more local synagogue. In my first visit to B'nai Sholom, I discovered that I knew at least half of the people present. I found a welcoming, warm, accepting environment that means a great deal to me. I also found Rabbi Weisbrot to be wise, accessible and helpful. The temple's beautiful music and social consciousness are also a good fit for me.

It is important that I am part of a community where we discover how Judaism can help us to live a mindful, meaningful life. I believe I have found it.



## Spotlight on New Members: Mark Waldman

***One of a series of articles from the Membership Team to introduce those who have recently joined B'nai Sholom. This month we welcome Mark Waldman, who joined B'nai Sholom this past summer.***

I arrived in Albany in August of 1972 as a freshman at SUNY Albany, having grown up in Syracuse. After college, I lived briefly in White Plains, returned to Syracuse, then on to Binghamton before returning to Albany in 1982. Since 2015, having retired from NYS government in 2010, I've been fortunate enough to spend the winter months in Tucson, Ariz.

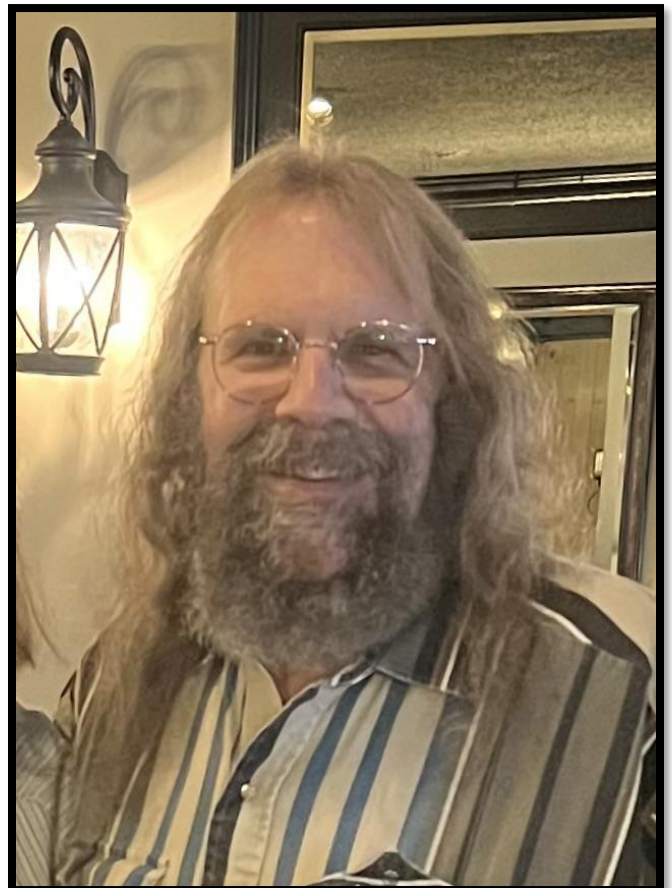
My career was entirely with New York State government, but in different roles. Originally a Clerk with the Lottery, then an Employment Interviewer at the Labor Department and for a short time as a Space Planner with the Office of General Services. I finally found a home in the New York State Education Department, where I worked in Central Administration, Independent Living (with our fellow congregant Barbara Devore), Aid to Local Governments and finished up working in Public Broadcasting.

I grew up in a Conservative synagogue. From 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades, we had to attend synagogue school three days each week: Sunday mornings, and two days per week after public school. Our education was a mixture of Jewish history, religious practice and the Hebrew language. It was never clear what we were learning nor why. Our only understanding was we had to spend over six hours each week in classes in order to eventually be "bar mitzvah'd."

During the evening celebration on the Shabbos of my bar mitzvah, in June of 1968, I mentally "left" my Jewish religious identity. After 40 years "in the desert," I attended a Passover seder at a friend's house. That evening, "something" happened within me. I asked my friend, our fellow congregant Ian Duckor, if he had any idea how I could pursue this new Jewish feeling that came over me. He told me there was a weekly Torah Study at the synagogue he belongs to and suggested that I drop in. I did just that.

My Jewish interests follow two complementary paths: (1) the intellectual study of our history, philosophy and theology; and (2) really nice musical participatory religious services. Equally as important, becoming friends with people new to me.

Between my work life and Torah study, I know a number of congregants here at B'nai Sholom, so joining here for the half of the year I am in Albany is a smooth transition. I hope my participation will enable the growth of learning, spirituality and just plain fun opportunities during the summer months.





## Adult Ed Winter 2026

### **"Jews and the American Revolution"** **Author Talk with Professor Adam Jortner** Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 PM (Via Zoom)

In a very special program recognizing America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, we will host via Zoom Professor Adam



Jortner, author of *A Promised Land: Jewish Patriots and the American Revolution and the Birth of Religious Freedom* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2024). The book, a lively and comprehensive account of the intersecting histories of Jews and the American founding, details as to how Jewish Patriots not only fought in every major engagement but played a key role in making the right to worship freely a reality.

Prof. Jortner holds an endowed chair at Auburn University, where he is a professor of history. He specializes in the history of religion in the early nation, having written several books on the subject as well as a lecture series on Audible entitled *Faith and the Founding Fathers*, and he is a frequent contributor to NPR's "Backstory." All are welcome!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Talk with Matt Elkin** **Executive Director, Jewish Coaches Association** Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 PM (Via Zoom)

More than 20 years ago, during the NCAA Men's Final Four basketball tournament, a small group of Jewish basketball coaches gathered, driven by a shared desire for connection and community. Their vision laid the foundation for the Jewish Coaches Association (JCA), officially established in 2004. Since then, the JCA has become a prominent network, focused on supporting the growth and development of Jewish individuals in sports across all levels, both nationally and internationally. It has more than 800 members, including the four Jewish coaches whose teams made it to the Men's and Women's Final Four tournaments in 2025.

Matt Elkin, currently an assistant basketball coach at Columbia University, is the executive director of the JCA. He previously served as head of basketball operations at Yale University and as an assistant coach with Team USA's Under-18 squad that won gold at the 2022 Maccabiah Games. All are welcome!!



\*\*\*\*\*

## Movie Night

### "SHTTL"

Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 PM

"SHTTL" (Ukraine, 2025) shows the lives, loves and inner conflicts within a Yiddish speaking *shtetl* on the border between Ukraine and Poland, one day before the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. A young, aspiring filmmaker returns from Kyiv to his rural village on the border between Ukraine and Poland. He plans to run away with his true love who is engaged to another man, disrupting the balance of the whole town. In one unflinching shot, this film presents a day in the life of a Jewish village before it disappears. Unravelling the simmering tensions between tradition and modernity, this is "a masterpiece" (*UK Jewish Film Festival*) and "remarkable...evocative" (*The Forward*). In Yiddish with English subtitles.

There will be a \$10 admission fee. Non-members are requested to pre-register via website link.

## Film Discussion

### "Hollywoodism: Jews, Movies, and the American Dream"

Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 PM (Via Zoom)

This fascinating documentary shows how the American Dream was in fact the creation of a bunch of Jewish immigrants from Central Europe in the early 20th century and that Hollywood mythology is fundamentally a Jewish invention, enduring to this day. Using both rare archival material, clips from classic pics, plus interviews with relatives of long-dead moguls, it follows the rise and fall of these movie giants from Eastern Europe to California. Free of the constraints of old-world society, they helped shape a new culture and social structure, a story of both assimilation and denial. All are invited!!!

This film is available via multiple streaming platforms but also for free at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXeHnvImcMk>.

## Save the Dates

**Sunday, April 26 @ 7 PM** – A screening of the film *The Sea* (2025), winner of Israel's Ophir Award as best film of the year;

**Sunday, May 17 @ 10:30 AM** – Synagogue Scholar talk by Phil Teumim, titled "Rock 'n' Roll Tribe - The Jews of Early Rock and Roll" (in person).

## **Purim**

Purim is fun — creating and wearing Purim costumes, baking goodies for *Mishloach Manot* baskets, or making creative graggers. Jewish.MomsAndCrafters.com has some great craft ideas for your family to create for Purim. One craft is a Spin Drum Gragger.

### **Instructions—Spin Drum Gragger**

- 1: On a piece of cardboard, trace an empty TP roll's circumference twice, making two circles.
- 2: Cut out the circles from the cardboard. Next cut out a roughly two inch tall cross section of the TP roll.
- 3: Use a sharp object to cut a slot on the side of the TP roll section. The slot should be big enough to insert a popsicle stick through it.
- 4: Insert a popsicle stick through the slot of the TP roll section. Apply glue to the areas where the popsicle stick and the TP roll meet to attach them firmly.
- 5: Take a long piece of yarn or string and attach a wooden bead to one end of the strand. Tie a knot to secure the bead. Thread a needle on the other end of the strand.
- 6: Consider the popsicle stick as vertically attached; now draw the needle through the TP roll horizontally.
- 7: When you pull the thread through the TP roll make sure that the thread that remains on the outside is not longer than the diameter of the roll. Tie the thread that is inside the roll around the popsicle stick.
- 8: Pull the needle through the other side of the roll. Add a wooden bead to this second side. Make a knot to secure the bead and cut off any extra thread. Try to keep a roughly equal amount of thread on this side as you have on the other side of the roll.
- 9: Glue your cardboard circles to both sides of the TP roll to close it.
- 10: Use colored paper or paint to decorate the plain cardboard parts of the spin drum.





Happy  
Purim



## **PURIM 5786: A Schtick-ful Celebration**

Start polishing your act and get ready for a night of schtick and song!

It's **Purim at B'nai Sholom**, a multi-access, in-the-Sanctuary evening of fun featuring your creative talent (but not 10,000 talents of silver).

**Monday, March 2 – 7 PM**

Perform a sketch, sing a song, tell a (Purim-themed) joke or two – or more.  
Use your imagination!

Costume Parade

The Whole Megillah

Continuous Revelry

Then cap it off with hamantaschen and beverages

Want to join in? Here's what to do:

Sign up by email to Ben Marvin [bamarvin4574@gmail.com](mailto:bamarvin4574@gmail.com). Indicate whether you plan to write a sketch or sing a song and which Megillah chapter you prefer.

**You know we take our silliness seriously.  
Why not share your silly side with us this year!?**

Questions? Contact Ben for more information.

## ***Thank You!***

... to the fantastic Bulletin Brigade who helped fold and stuff January's Bulletin: Jim and Joan Savitt; Martha Rozett, Anita Stein, Rema Goldstein, Mark and Cheryl Reeder.

... to the following congregants who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat or kiddush lunch: Lewis Sperber; Norm, Adele and Janet Strominger; Sharon and Mark Sklar.

## ***Mazal Tov!***

...to Carol and Doug Smith on the birth of their grandson, Maxwell Theodore, to Samantha and Zach Karamallakis on December 29 in Denver.

## **Our Recent Kibbutzniks**

Lois Gordon                      In memory of Tobey Katz

## **The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:**

### **General Fund**

Jeffrey and Teresa Weisbrot;

In memory of **Tobey Katz** by Lois Gordon

In memory of **Eleanore Marvin** by Ben and Becky Marvin

In memory of **Leonard and Sandra Samuels** by Mark and Sharon Sklar

In memory of **Avraham Koren** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth

### **Fundraising Appeal**

Marsha Lazarus and Kathleen O'Connor

### **Free Food Fridge**

Valerie Tabak and Jesse Dinkin; Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth; Laurie Shanks; Mari Vosburgh

### **Adult Education**

Nancy and David Rudinger

*Please note, some donations will be recorded a month after they are received due to technical issues.*

The congregation mourns the recent passing of  
**Jonathan Tuck, brother of Martha Rozett**

*May his memory forever be for a blessing.*

**The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in February:**

2/6

Irving Schwartz; Sylvia Schwartz; Ida Shapiro Jaffe\*; Sandra Samuels; Lillian Hammer\*; Ethel Hesch Berke\*; Isaac Adels\*; Hyman Miller; Morris Alowitz\*; Arthur Katz; Frank Weinberg\*; Jack Jarett; Harvey S. Schwartz\*; Roz Walker\*; Bernard Royne; Esther Rosenberg\*; Ethel Strohl; Lillian Dinkin; Irving Watnick; Merle Schaffer Sperber\*; Barbara Sternstein

2/13

Eleanor Newman Blum; Sarah Koblenz Pock\*; Morris Cohen; Helen Rehr; Sherryl Pflanz; George Raderman

2/20

Rose Goldberg; Ida Goldstein; Benjamin L. Dubb; Barbara Sternstein; Paul Goldstein; Irma Bruce; Frederic Neuburger; Joyce Epstein\*; Augusta Lichtenfels\*; Irma Weiss

2/27

Pearl Ronay; Sophie Scholl Small; Joyce Yaffe; Muriel Rosenthal; Arlan Walker\*; Ruth Warshaw\*; Samuel Strohl; Morris Wagner\*; Lena Semelisky\*; Feige Marion Brody; Frances K. Singer\*

*\*Denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established.*

## Be On Guard Against Email/Text Spoofing Scams

---

STAY ALERT! If you see a suspicious email or text message that claims to come from Rabbi Weisbrot or someone else at B'nai Sholom, double-check the email address or phone number of the sender – it may be a scam. When in doubt, ***do not click on any links or attachments*** and ***do not reply*** to the message. Send a fresh message to the correct address or number for the supposed sender or call them directly to confirm.

---

**RABBI:** Danielle Weisbrot can be reached at [rabbi@bnaisholomalbany.org](mailto:rabbi@bnaisholomalbany.org)

**RABBI EMERITUS:** Donald P. Cashman

**PRESIDENT:** Melissa Putterman Hoffmann can be reached at [president@bnaisholomalbany.org](mailto:president@bnaisholomalbany.org)

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Emily Pickering can be reached at [office@bnaisholomalbany.org](mailto:office@bnaisholomalbany.org)

**OFFICE HOURS:** TUE/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–4:00 PM

Articles and news received after the deadline are subject to omission. As a rule, the Bulletin deadline is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Adherence to the deadline is critical to ensuring that the Bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.

Period Covered

Deadline

March

February 11

April

March 11



# RAC-NY Advocacy Day

**When:** February 25, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Where:** New York Statehouse in Albany, NY

**What:** Education, training, community building, and office visits to legislators

Scan the QR code  
or follow the link  
to register



<https://cvent.me/vldqVe>

## We Will Advocate For...

### Immigration

Ensure humane, just, and compassionate immigration policies in New York State.

### Climate

Ensure New York remains a national leader in reducing emissions and protecting the planet for future generations.

## IT'S TIME FOR THE B'NAI SHOLOM REFORM CONGREGATION ANNUAL PURIM BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA!

*Therefore do the Jews of the villages that dwell in the unwalled town, make the fourteenth day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.*  
*Esther 9:19*

Purim is a day of taking and giving joy. For years, we have rejoiced in our deliverance from Haman by sending gifts of special foods to friends and relatives. *Tzedakah* is performed by donating food or money and *Mishloach Manot* by sending sweet treats to friends. Once again, our congregation would like to provide you with the opportunity to fulfill two of the *mitzvot* of Purim – the giving of *Tzedakah* and *Mishloach Manot* (*Shalakhmones*).

You can honor your fellow B'nai Sholom friends and support the congregation's fundraising efforts while participating in this wonderful tradition. A package generally contains hamantaschen, fruit juice, fruits, nuts and other sweets.

**The 5786/2026 Mishloach Manot will be brought to you by the entire B'nai Sholom Family. This is a significant fundraiser for B'nai Sholom and we hope you will participate by donating what you can. Historically, donations have ranged from \$18 to \$118.**

**Mishloach Manot will be available for pick up at Purim services on March 2 or at the temple office during the week of March 2.**

Please use the form below to make your donation.

### Mishloach Manot Contribution

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO B'NAI SHOLOM

SEND TO OR DROP OFF AT:

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, Attn: Fundraising Committee, 420 Whitehall Road,  
Albany, NY 12208